

## This Week In Agriculture

June 19-25, 2005

### Biosciences conference yields interesting discussion about agriculture's future

Panelists ponder the possible at Boise meeting

By Wayne Hoffman

Idaho's agriculture industry has a boundless future when it comes to developments in biosciences, a group of experts told an audience June 9 in Boise.

The comments came during the two-day Science and Technology Industry Forum.

The state Office of Science and Technology

put on the second annual conference, which featured a segment devoted entirely to agriculture-based biosciences and other segments with significant implications for Idaho's farmers.

Still, experts say, challenges persist.

Farmers could benefit from renewed interest in ethanol-blended fuel — in part because of rising gasoline prices and con-



Could the future of agriculture rest in the biosciences? Experts meeting in Boise on June 9 considered several prospects.

cern about America's dependence on foreign oil.

But so far, infrastructure issues are keeping large-scale applications of the technology at bay.

Jeff Morris, director of the Seattle-based Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative told listeners that most Washington state vehicles can run on high-blended ethanol.

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Idaho ranchers can learn about how new federal wolf rules apply to them, thanks to information cards the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has developed.

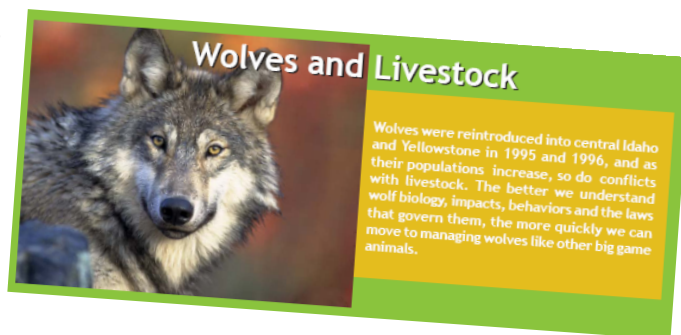
In February, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved changes to the way reintroduced wolves can be managed south of Interstate 90 in Idaho and in parts of Montana.

The new "10j" rule gives Idaho residents more latitude to deal with problem

residents and particularly livestock and dog owners who aren't clear on what the new rules mean," said Steve Nadeau, wolf coordinator for Idaho Fish & Game.

"We developed these fact cards so livestock operators and dog owners would understand what their options are under the new rule, and to give them numbers to call when they have a problem or concern with wolves. We want to make wolf management as easy as possible for the livestock industry and this is just one way to help.

"We are grateful that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is helping us distribute

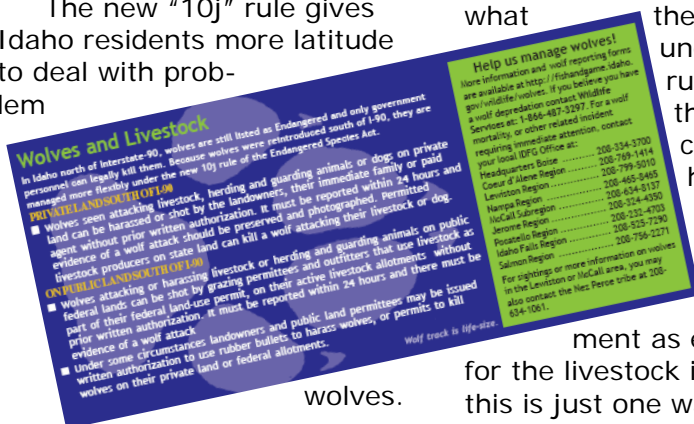


this information."

The cards explain what ranchers are permitted to do if wolves are seen attacking their livestock on private or public land south of I-90 in Idaho.

For example, wolves attacking livestock on private land can be shot or harassed by landowners without prior written authorization, but it must be reported within 24 hours and evidence of a wolf attack has to be documented.

The cards are available at Idaho Fish and Game offices and at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's main office at 2270 Old Penitentiary Road in Boise.



wolves.

"Because the rules that govern wolf management in Idaho changed in February, we have had many questions from Idaho

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But, he said, there's no infrastructure to provide the supply to the vehicle fleet.

Once the infrastructure is in place, farmers who grow the biomass to make ethanol-blended fuel would reap the benefit. Some suggested that governments that developed the infrastructure to build highways, power and irrigation systems should play a larger role in the development of ethanol production facilities.

Researchers are looking at

other ways of applying technological innovations to Idaho's agriculture. Larry Haley of ECO Research has developed a watering analyzer that helps farmers know how much irrigation is needed.

The Idaho National Laboratory is researching white rot fungus to improve the quality of wheat straw used in the manufacturing of straw board.

"There is still marketing potential" for Idaho farmers wanting to use the technology, said researcher Melinda Hamilton. The building materials market is growing 38 percent a year, she

said, creating extraordinary potential for development in this field.

There are a lot of technologies we use in Idaho that can be exported, said Phil Syrdal of the Idaho Bioscience Association.

"The more we support our research, the more we're going to get out of it," Syrdal said.

(Wayne Hoffman is the special assistant to the director at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. He can be reached at 208-332-8671. E-mail [whoffman@idahoag.us](mailto:whoffman@idahoag.us).)

Idaho freshmarket potato growers have until June 27 to sign up for money and training assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Growers can register at their local USDA Farm Service Agency office and attend free, half-day technical assistance workshops that will be offered by University of Idaho Extension this summer.

The first seven of these UI workshops have been scheduled for the afternoon of June 27 in Nampa, the morning of June 28 in Twin Falls, the after-

noon of June 28 in Burley, the morning of June 29 in Pocatello, the afternoon of June 29 in Blackfoot, the morning of June 30 in Idaho Falls and the afternoon of June 30 in Rexburg.

Paul Patterson, UI Extension economist and workshop coordinator, said two additional classes will be held sometime in August in the Magic Valley and eastern Idaho for growers who aren't able to attend one of the currently scheduled workshops.

The USDA's Foreign Agricul-

For more details about the workshops or to register for one of them, call the UI's District IV Extension office in Idaho Falls at (208) 529-8376. E-mail [jhughes@uidaho.edu](mailto:jhughes@uidaho.edu). Pr-registration is not required, but growers should call first to ensure that space will be available.

tural Service determined this spring that 2003 Idaho potato prices were negatively impacted by Canadian French fry imports.

## Workshop set on farm, rural connection

Farm programs have an impact on farm households and rural communities as well as agricultural commodity markets.

On June 24, 2005 in the Hart Senate Office Building, the National Center for Food and Agricultural

Policy (NCFAP) and the Economic Research Service (ERS) will hold a workshop to discuss alternative approaches to farm policy and their consequences for farm households and rural America, with a focus on the next farm bill.

Attendance is free, but reservations are required. R

Register through the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy.

More information is available at <http://www.ncfap.org>.



## Idaho Cattle Association sets June 22-24 meeting

Members of the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) will gather at the Ashley Inn in Cascade June 22-24 for the annual ICA mid-year conference.

Speakers during the Opening General Session include Mike John, NCBA Vice President and

Steve Dittmer of the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation. Wednesday also includes meetings of the Marketing and Cattle Health and Well Being Committee, as well as the Cow/Calf, Feeder, Purebred, and CattleWomen Councils. Agenda items include country of origin labeling, trade issues and ani-

Go to <http://www.idahocattle.org> or contact the ICA office at 208-343-1615 for registration information.

mal identification. Thursday's meeting includes a joint session of the Federal & State Lands, Wildlife, and Private Lands & Environment Committees.

## Lockie is ISDA's Animal Identification Coordinator

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture welcomes Misti Lockie as the department's new Animal Identification Coordinator.

Lockie will work to develop and promote the animal identification program in Idaho, meet with the public, interest groups and agencies to discuss its implementation.

The National Animal Identification System is a national program intended to identify specific animals in the United States and track their movement over their life spans to respond to emergency diseases.

The granddaughter of a dairyman and a farmer, Misti (McDowell) Lockie grew up on the back of a horse and she has long roots in Idaho.

From horse shows to rodeos, she started competition at age 3 and still continues to compete in team roping and breakaway roping. She attended Lewis Clark State College on a rodeo scholarship, and obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho in Journalism and Communications.

In addition, she assisted at Idaho's Bureau of Disaster Services on their Emergency Web Development Team, and received intensive training on Public Information and Emergency Management at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

For the last three years, Misti was the Policy and Procedures Coordinator at the Idaho Transportation Department. She now lives in Caldwell with her daughter, Sydnee, age 4.

One of the successful companies doing business in Japan is Fresca Mexican Foods in Boise. Here, Governor Dirk Kempthorne is shown at a Japanese restaurant that features lasagna made with Fresca tortillas. KBCI-TV Ch. 2 recently aired a story about how Fresca is producing products that are becoming a hit with Japanese consumers. Read the story at <http://www.kbcitv.com>.



## What's ahead in ISDA's Marketing

**July 5-6** Japanese buyers interested in processed and value-added products will meet with Idaho companies and tour processing and distribution facilities in the Western U.S. including Idaho.

**July 9-17** The Colorado Department of Agriculture will be working with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on Cooking Shows that showcase Western United States products. These have been a great success in reaching the food decision makers in the Mexican markets. They involve Mexican cooking personalities and U.S. chefs.

**July 24-26** The Idaho Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), will host a group of buyers from Central America.

This Week in Agriculture is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. To contribute items to the newsletter, or for more information, contact

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The deadline to submit all articles is 10 a.m. Thursday